Water samples of thirty rivers

3093. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water samples of 30 rivers in northern and north-eastern hilly States of our country have shown presence of metals and pesticide residues above the permissible limit;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has made any such study with regard to all the rivers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, river-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. As informed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), out of 48 rivers being monitored by them in North and North Eastern Region for metals and pesticides residues, the observed values in 19 rivers with respect to some metals are exceeding the acceptable limit for ambient waters at a few locations. Further, the levels of pesticides observed as per CPCB are not exceeding the acceptable limits.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Assistance for backward States under AIBP

†3094. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the norms with regard to assistance to be provided to backward States under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that States have complained to the Central Government about discrimination in norms for assistance to backward State like Madhya Pradesh against hilly States;

(c) if so the details of efforts being made to do away with the anomalies in the said norms;

(d) whether Government has any proposal under its consideration for revision of said programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme central grant of 90% is provided to the major/medium projects and surface water minor irrigation schemes of the special category States and Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa. Major and medium projects of non special category States benefiting drought prone/tribal/flood prone area are eligible for up to 90% grant under AIBP depending on the extent of such area benefited from project and included in AIBP. Surface water minor irrigation schemes of non special category states (as per eligible criteria specified in AIBP guidelines) benefiting drought prone/tribal area are eligible for 90% grant under AIBP. All other major/ medium projects are eligible for 25% grant of project cost included in AIBP.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Specific complaint regarding discrimination has not been received from any State.

(d) There is no proposal for revision of said programme.

(e) Does not arise.

Flood/Drought in Bihar

†3095. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for problem of floods in North Bihar and drought in South Bihar;

(b) the number of proposals received by State Government and Central Government regarding solution of these problems and by whom;

(c) the action taken on these proposals;

(d) the reasons for laxity and negligence in addressing such serious problems being faced in Bihar; and

(e) the steps to be taken for improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) Flood and drought are natural phenomenon. Recurrent floods problem in North Bihar is, however, linked with the flood waters brought by rivers flowing from Nepal. A number of reservoir schemes have been envisaged in the Nepal territory on these rivers such as, Saptkosi High Dam at Barahkshetra, Bagmati Multipurpose project at Noonthar, Kamala Dam at Chisapani, etc., to store the flood water. The Government of India has set up a Joint Project Officer (JPO) at Biratnagar (Nepal) in August 2004 to undertake field surveys and investigations in order to conduct feasibility and prepare the project reports of the aforesaid projects.

State Government of Bihar has also undertaken the raising, strengthening and extension of existing flood embankments on the rivers, namely, Kosi, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Lalbakeya, Baghmati and Kamla Balan to contain the flood waters, with Central assistance.

As per the information available from the Government of Bihar, the State Government has identified six intra-state rivers links to divert the excess flood water from flood affected to rain-deficient areas in order to overcome the problem of floods in North Bihar and drought in South Bihar.

Farmer participatory action research programme

3096. PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of the Farmer Participatory Action Research Programme of the Ministry;

(b) the number of farmers included, the number of institutions participating and the results obtained during the Khariff, 2007; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.